

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

January 20, 2006

Lauro Dam-Area Resident:

The Bureau of Reclamation is modifying Lauro Dam to reduce long-term risks due to earthquakes. Construction of this modification began about a month ago. So far, construction activities have been limited to site preparation, security, removal of vegetation, and placement of storm water pollution prevention devices.

This letter is part of Reclamation's continuing public outreach program for this project, and is the third in a series to inform Lauro Dam neighbors of upcoming activities. In addition, Reclamation has issued several press releases and conducted two public meetings. These activities resulted in several articles having appeared in the Santa Barbara News-Press. We have also provided a web site, a toll-free telephone number of recorded information, and a point of contact (see last paragraph of this letter).

To the greatest extent practical, Reclamation has incorporated features into the modification designed to minimize impacts to our neighbors. The two most likely concerns are noise generating activities and truck traffic along San Roque Road.

In late January 2006, activities will begin to sort materials for reuse. Excavated material will be fed onto a mechanical "grizzly screen" that uses a motorized shaking process to separate the larger rocks and boulders from the smaller sized material. Because this operation generates noise, it will be performed between embankments or other high ground near the dam so that sound transmission will be reduced. All noise making activities are limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday.

We anticipate the mechanical screening operation will begin soon and will continue for a period of about 2-3 weeks. The mechanical screening operation may again be necessary for other periods as the modification progresses.

Another activity that will be of concern to neighbors on San Roque Road will be sand and rock hauling scheduled to begin in early March and continue until August 2006. The haul route will use San Marcos Pass Road to Foothill Road to San Roque Road.

As much as possible, features have been incorporated into the design that reduce the needed quantity of these materials and thereby lessen hauling requirements. Other features to reduce traffic impacts have been incorporated including:



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- a. Developing and implementing a construction traffic plan;
- b. Ensuring that haul trucks are covered;
- c. Prohibiting the use of compression release engine braking (a.k.a., “Jake brakes”);
- d. Limiting hauling hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday);
- e. Meeting Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District emissions requirements; and
- f. Keeping San Roque Road clean and restoring it when the project is completed.

As a reminder, during the entire construction period there will be no general public access allowed for any purpose across the downstream portion of Lauro Dam between Laurel Canyon and San Roque Roads.

Additional information is available on our website at www.usbr.gov/mp/sod. We also are providing updated information on Reclamation’s Grapevine that can be accessed by calling 1-800-742-9474, and pressing “29” for the Lauro Safety of Dams Project. You can contact us directly by calling David Jones at 916-978-5108, or by email at dajones@mp.usbr.gov.